

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /137 W

----- 073071

R 241240Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2669

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AND AEGG-OCO

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT: HARRASSMENT OF U.S. PERSONNEL AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

1. AT 1115 HOURS NOVEMBER 23 AN ENLISTED MAN OF BERLIN  
BRIGADE DRIVING USAREUR REGISTERED VEHICLE AND ACCOMPANIED  
BY FOUR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY ENTERED EAST BERLIN  
FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CHECKPOINT WITH INTENT OF MAKING  
TOUR OF EAST BERLIN. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED  
PROCEDURES, SERVICEMAN DISPLAYED IN WINDOW OF HIS  
CAR THE U.S. FORCES BERLIN CARDS IDENTIFYING THE  
MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY. HOWEVER, RATHER THAN ALLOWING  
VEHICLE AND OCCUPANTS TO PASS, EAST BERLIN GUARD  
INSISTED THAT SERVICEMAN HAND OVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS.  
WHEN LATTER QUITE CORRECTLY REFUSED TO COMPLY, HE  
WAS INFORMED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO WEST  
BERLIN.

2. AFTER EXPLAINING PROBLEM TO MP'S AT CHECKPOINT  
CHARLIE, SERVICEMAN SOUGHT ONCE AGAIN TO PROCEED  
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THROUGH EAST BERLIN CHECKPOINT. AGAIN EAST BERLIN

GUARD SIGNALLED FOR U.S. FORCES BERLIN CARDS TO BE  
HANDED OVER, WHICH SERVICEMAN AGAIN REFUSED. VEHICLE  
WAS THEREUPON BLOCKED BY OTHER GUARDS, AND APPROXI-  
MATELY SEVEN PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN OF OCCUPANTS.  
SUBSEQUENTLY SERVICEMAN WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND  
THAT HE COULD PROCEED INTO EAST BERLIN, BUT, IN VIEW  
OF CIRCUMSTANCES, HE CHOSE TO RETURN TO WEST BERLIN.

3. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER DELIVERED STATEMENT IN  
PROTEST TO SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER ROMANOVSKIY AFTERNOON  
NOVEMBER 23, RECOUNTING FACTS OF INCIDENT AND POINTING  
OUT THAT BEHAVIOR OF EAST BERLIN GUARDS CONSTITUTED  
UNWARRANTED AND IMPERMISSIBLE HARRASSMENT OF U.S.  
PERSONNEL AND A DEPARTURE FROM ACCEPTED AND ESTABLISHED  
PROCEDURES GOVERNING FREE MOVEMENT OF ALLIED PERSONNEL  
THROUGHOUT BERLIN. FOLLOWING THE CUSTOMARY SOVIET  
PRACTICE IN SUCH CASE, ROMANOVSKIY SAID THAT HE COULD  
NOT ACCEPT PROTEST BUT WOULD TAKE IT FOR INFORMATIONAL  
PURPOSES.

4. MISSION SUSPECTS THAT REASON FOR HARRASSMENT  
MAY HAVE BEEN FAULTY (VERY FAINT) IMPRESSION SEAL ON  
EACH OF FOUR U.S. FORCES BERLIN CARDS IN QUESTION.  
OTHER U.S. PERSONNEL HAVE EXPERIENCED SIMILAR  
DIFFICULTIES IN PAST FOR JUST THIS REASON.

5. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, HARASSMENT, BERLIN ACCESS DISPUTES, BERLIN HIGHWAY ACCESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinjw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BERLIN02016  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731115/aaaaaksy.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HARRASSMENT OF U.S. PERSONNEL AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005